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WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, September 29, 1894.

Without derogating in the least degree from the services of the two eminent scientists who preceded Secretary Langley, it is perfectly apparent to those who are at all familiar with the management of the Smithsonian Institution that the present methods and lines of administration are vastly superior to those that have formerly prevailed. This is due partially at least to the increased income from the invested funds of the Institution, but probably in a greater degree to the efficiency of carefully selected assistants who reflect accurately and promptly the plans and purposes of the Secretary.

The funds of the Institution which are devoted to the "diffusion of knowledge" are by no means confined to the agency of the printing press, but grants of money are frequently made to aid original investigators. In 1893 Prof. E. W. Morley was provided with special apparatus at the expense of the Institution to continue his determinations of the density of oxygen and hydrogen. A grant of \$500 was made to Dr. O. Lummer and Dr. E. Pringsheim of Berlin for researches on the determination of an exact measure of the cooling of gases while expanding, with a view to revising the value of that most important constant which is technically termed the "gamma" function. A second grant of

\$1,000 was made to Dr. J. S. Billings and Dr. Weir Mitchell for an investigation into the nature of the peculiar substances of organic origin contained in the air expired by human beings, with a specific reference to the practical application of the results obtained to the problem of ventilation for inhabited rooms. An annual grant of \$500 for three years was made for the use of a study table in the laboratory of the Zoological Station at Naples for American biologists. Prizes or premiums of \$10,000, \$2,000, \$1,000 and a gold medal, accompanied by a duplicate impression in silver and bronze, were offered for treatises embodying some new and important discovery in regard to the nature or properties of atmospheric air in various specified relationships. A very large number of papers have been received in response to these offers, including some very distinguished names, from all parts of the world.

For the first time in many years the annual reports of this Institution are printed up to date. The report for 1893 contains a number of papers of unusual interest. Several important publications are now going through the press, or in course of preparation; among others, Mr. W. W. Rockhill's narrative of his travels in Tibet and Mongolia in 1891-'92. Mr. Rockhill travelled extensively in this region under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, and his explorations have added much to our knowledge of the country. A portion of the collection of objects he has made will eventually be placed in the National Museum. Other publications promised at an early date are Smithsonian Geographical Tables, by R. S. Woodward; Physical Tables, by Thomas Gray,—companion volumes to the

Meteorological Tables already issued,—Varieties of the Human Species, by Giuseppe Sergi, translated by D. G. Brinton; Index to the genera and species of the Foraminifera, by Charles Davies Sherborn, Part 2; Index to the literature of Didymium, by A. C. Langmuir; Index to the literature of Lanthanum, by W. H. Magee; Index to the literature of Cerium, by W. H. Magee; Bibliography of Aceto-Acetic Ester, by Prof. P. H. Seymour.

The Bureau of Ethnology has recently published [Contributions to North American Ethnology, Vol. IX.] The Dakota Grammar, Texts and Ethnography, prepared by the late Dr. S. R. Riggs.

The author, who died in 1883, had for nearly fifty years associated this work with actual residence among the Dakota Indians. The manuscript which he left required some editing before printing, and to this task the Director of the Bureau assigned the Rev. James Owen Dorsey. Mr. Dorsey has included additional investigations among the Dakota and other tribes of the Siouan stock since the death of the author, and in a Preface of 32 pages contributes several valuable ethnographic notes.

Mr. Dorsey commenced mission work among the Ponka Indians in 1871, in the southern part of the region then called Dakota Territory. His work was continued for two years, when it was interrupted by illness. In 1878 he repaired to the Omaha reservation, in Nebraska. On the organization of the Bureau of Ethnology, in 1879, he was formally attached to it, and has since been continuously occupied in researches relating to the languages, institutions and beliefs of

the Indians of the interior, chiefly those of the Siouan and Athapascan stocks. He has become one of the foremost living students of our aboriginal languages.*

The eleventh and twelfth annual reports of the Bureau of Ethnology have appeared almost simultaneously, and more than sustain the excellent reputation of the work of this Bureau of the Smithsonian Institution. Three original contributions accompany the eleventh report, and one contribution the twelfth report. All treat of the habits and customs, beliefs and institutions of our native races. The first paper (relating to the pueblo of Sia) has an unusual history.

The researches were commenced by the late Col. James Stevenson in 1879, and continued during 1887-'88 (his last year of field duty), when his work was interrupted by failing health and his subsequent much-lamented death. He left copious notes, photographs and sketches, but these were not reduced to a form adapted to publication. His widow (Mrs. Matilda Coxe Stevenson) undertook the digestion and arrangement of the notes for the press. She made another visit to the field, and, with indefatigable energy, carried the work to completion.

The single contribution contained in the twelfth report is an exhaustive study on mound explorations, by Cyrus Thomas. The conclusions reached are: (1) That nothing found in the 2,000 mounds examined justifies the opinion that they are uniformly of great antiquity. (2) That the links of evidence connecting the Indians and mound-builders are so numerous and

* Major Powell, in Eleventh Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology.

well established as to justify archæologists in concluding that they were one and the same people.

In view of the evidences presented in this report (far too voluminous to discuss here), the theory that the makers of these ancient tumuli of the eastern half of the United States are the remains of a people more highly cultured than the tribes found by the white man, and who vanished from the country anterior to the Columbian discovery, must be abandoned. The theory of the "lost races" has always been the most popular one, and found advocates in Barton, Harris, Short, Wilson, Dawson, Morgan, Squier and Davis; while the "Indian" theory has been maintained by Schoolcraft, Gallatin, Cass, Lubbock, Drake, Carr, M. F. Force, Thruston, McCulloh, Dall, Powell and Thomas.

A few changes have been made among the higher officials of the National Museum. Mr. Frederick W. True is now executive curator, instead of curator-in-charge. Mr. A. Howard Clark has been transferred from the Museum to the office of Secretary Langley in order to prepare for publication a considerable accumulation of important papers. Mr. R. Edward Earll takes Mr. Clark's place as curator of historical relics and editor of the National Museum publications. The Museum now contains about 3,500,000 specimens. The relations between the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum are intimate, but it should always be remembered that the Institution is an entirely distinct and separate body, and sustained by its own invested funds. The National Museum, the Bureau of Ethnology, the Zoological Park and the Astrophysical Observatory have been placed by Congress under the super-

vision of the Institution, but all three are supported by Congressional appropriations amounting for the current year to the sum of \$269,100.

Mr. Frank H. Cushing is arranging in one of the large halls of the Museum a very large and complete collection of material pertaining to the history of the Pueblos and the allied tribes. Mr. Cushing, by means of his long years of residence among the Pueblos, is better qualified than any other man living to take charge of such a task. Professor Mason says that the Pueblo collection in the Museum is the richest of any people or race; in fact, one of the greatest ethnological collections in the world, and it is proposed to put it together for display and study. Mr. Cushing expects to carry the tribal history back 700 years before the invasion of the Spaniards.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.—The latest Bulletin (No. 4) of the Bureau of Rolls, Department of State, contains a calendar of the correspondence of James Madison, preceded by a chronological record of Madison's life. It is a fine imperial 8vo volume of 739 pages, prepared by Mr. Walter Manton. The collection of letters (about 8,000) is alphabetized under the names of the parties addressed in the case of letters *from* Madison, and under the names of the writers in the case of letters *to* Madison. Following each name is a brief of the letter. This class of Bureau work, so well begun with the Monroe and Madison calendars, should be prosecuted as expeditiously as possible, until we have calendars of Washington,

Franklin, Jefferson and Hamilton, the Continental papers, etc., etc.

The difficulty experienced by those who would consult the historical papers of the State Department is that they neither know what the Department contains, nor precisely, therefore, what they themselves want ; and as confidence in human nature has not yet reached that state of sublime perfection which would unlock the doors and say to the inquirer, "Help yourself," the imperative demand for calendars, either in print or otherwise, is apparent. The wonder is that for such a very long period the Department has been without them. That numerous complaints have arisen because of the lack of such facilities goes without saying. In the absence of the authority of Congress to print *verbatim*, etc., the entire collection of manuscripts, let us have calendars or indexes, or both, in print or otherwise, as rapidly as possible.

At the last session of Congress, Senator Mills offered an amendment to the Sundry Civil bill, appropriating \$25,000 for printing the Revolutionary archives in the Department of State. The amendment was referred to the Library Committee, which reported favorably, but reduced the amount to \$10,000. The House of Representatives not agreeing to the proposition, the matter went to the Conference Committee of the two Houses, along with other subjects of disagreement. It emerged in the following form :

"The Secretary of State is hereby directed to cause the Revolutionary archives, except the military records, now deposited in his Department, to be carefully examined, and to ascertain what portions are of sufficient

and historical value to publish, and the number of printed volumes they would make, and the reasonable cost of their publication and editing, and report the result to Congress, with such recommendations as he may deem proper."

But in another part of the same act appears the following clause :

"That all military records, such as muster and pay rolls, orders and reports relating to the personnel or the operations of the armies of the Revolutionary War and of the War of 1812, now in any of the Executive Departments, shall be transferred to the Secretary of War, to be preserved, indexed and prepared for publication."

When this clause was under consideration in the Senate, Senator Hoar—the historical authority of that body—moved to strike out the words "military records, such as," and his amendment was agreed to. He also proposed another amendment, viz.: "*Provided*, That whenever the head of any Department shall deem the retention of any such records in his Department essential to the convenient transaction of the business thereof, he may direct *copies* of such records to be transmitted to the War Department." And the amendment was agreed to. Nevertheless, when the bill emerged from the Conference Committee and was finally passed and printed, it was found, to the surprise of many, to be in the form first above mentioned.

Senator Hoar, in urging his amendment, stated clearly his reasons. He said: "A great many of the military records which are in the State Department have come from the private papers of distinguished

officers, or other persons in public life, military or civil, during the Revolutionary War ; muster rolls have come from the custody of the regimental and other officers to whom the reports were made. They are connected very often with family papers which have been purchased by the Government or given to the Government. A great many of them are inextricably connected with other documents and ought not to be separated. It is quite important that where these papers are connected with others, or are needed for the service of the different Departments, *copies* shall be sent, not the originals."

As the matter stands now, the Secretary of State, for instance, is *directed* to transfer all "military records" to the War Department, *i. e.*, to the Record and Pensions Division, C. F. Ainsworth in charge. And it means the spoliation of the most valuable historical manuscripts of the Department. What are the originals of the Proceedings of the Continental Congress, or the military papers of Washington and other generals of the Revolution, if they are not "military records" of the "operations of the armies of the Revolutionary War"? These manuscripts comprise hundreds of volumes of the priceless collections in the Department of State. Separated from other manuscripts of the same period, which are not "military," but historical records, the continuity of the papers would be destroyed for historical research, and the public for all time to come would be put to great inconvenience and annoyance. The last clause of the scheme—"prepared for publication"—is a mere ruse. Every Historical Society, every historian and every

patriotic citizen should protest vehemently and with great indignation against the perpetration of this scheme, and respectfully request the Secretary of State to defer action until an expression from Congress can be obtained. It seems very remarkable that after the forcible exposition of the matter by Senator Hoar and the adoption of his amendment without opposition, the bill should finally emerge from the dark chambers of the Conference Committee with every objectionable feature restored and made mandatory besides. There must have been a considerable amount of jugglery with that Conference Committee, because Congress, as a body, cares as little about matters of this kind as would the man in the moon.

NEW GEOGRAPHY.—The northeast corner of Utah, named by travellers "the treasure vault of Utah," has long been segregated as a reservation for the Uncompahgre and Uintah Indians. The reservation contains about 4,000,000 acres—an area about four-fifths the size of Massachusetts. Under legislation procured at the last session of Congress this region is to be restored to the public domain and made subject to entry under the homestead and mineral laws of the United States.

About 60 per cent. of the tract is available for agricultural and grazing purposes; but it is said that the mining possibilities of the country outweigh its agricultural attractions, which are of very high rank.

The region is encircled by the Uintah, the Wasatch and the White River Mountains. The Uintah Mountains are described as particularly rugged and picturesque. They are part of the great range that runs

north and south through Utah into Idaho and Wyoming. The climate is about the same as that of the Salt Lake basin, and there is an abundant supply of water.

When the Presidential proclamation declares these lands open to settlement we shall witness the wild scenes of the Oklahoma and Cherokee Strip opening.

Under recent legislation, also, an agreement has been made with the Yankton tribe of Sioux or Dakota Indians in the Yankton reservation in South Dakota to surrender to the United States a portion of their land,—about 300,000 acres; and with the Alsea and other Indians on Siletz reservation in Oregon,—about 60,000 acres; and with the Nez Perce Indians upon the Lapwai reservation in Idaho for some 500,000 acres more,—in all about 900,000 acres are to be restored to the public domain.

The Indian reservations are fast disappearing from the map of the United States.

IT WILL INTEREST THOSE WHO STUDY NEW GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES IN SOUTH AMERICA to learn that Mr. Juan José Castro, who is Minister of Public Works for Uruguay, has prepared a treatise on South American railways and the great international lines. It supplies a mass of valuable information concerning the workings of South American railways, as well as of enterprises either in process of development or merely projected.

Señor Castro says that the two great projects which may be said to dominate the railroad development of South America are the proposed Intercontinental Railway and the South American Interoceanic Railway.

The object of the first named line is to establish direct communication between North and South America from Canada to the River Plate and Chile. The surveys for this purpose have been going on for some time under the direction of the Intercontinental Railway Commission, with headquarters at Washington. The second, or Interoceanic Line, is intended to shorten the time required for communication between the Pacific Ocean, the River Plate and Brazil and the European continent, and, of course, to open up new facilities for commerce.

A synopsis of this book of over 650 pages is given in the February Bulletin of the Bureau of American Republics.

Mr. P. de Murguiondo, Consul-General of Uruguay, will furnish copies of the work to those specially interested upon application at 309 East North Avenue, Baltimore, Md.

A new steamship line is in operation between New Orleans and Cartagena (Colombia). The vessels leave New Orleans on the 10th, 20th and 30th of each month and reach Cartagena in six days, making the quickest and most frequent communication with the United States that has yet been available. The mail service between the two countries has been perceptibly stimulated.

A railroad built by Americans, running from Cartagena southward to Calamar on the Magdalena River has been opened for traffic. It is expected to revive the commercial importance of Cartagena.

An Anglo-Dutch syndicate has put a surveying party in the field looking for the most feasible route for a

railroad to connect Guatemala City with the Tehuantepec railway.

BOUNDARIES.—The resurvey and erection of monuments on the boundary line between the United States and Mexico, that is to say, the line for about seven hundred miles from El Paso to the Pacific, has been completed. Many of the original monuments had disappeared. In one locality none were found for more than one hundred miles, and in another a monument was found a mile south of the true American line, and the mile strip extended for a distance of thirty-two miles along the supposed boundary, considerably mixing up the *loci habitandi* of both Americans and Mexicans.

The entire preliminary survey of the line between Alaska and the British possessions has been completed and the parties of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey have returned. Few people can estimate or appreciate the hard work and rough experiences connected with such an undertaking,—the frequent swamping and upsetting of boats in surfs or swift currents,—the loss of provisions, clothing and cooking utensils,—the unfriendliness of native tribes,—the fatigue from travel over an unexplored and very rugged country. Nevertheless it is stated that in the six years this survey has been in operation, not a single life has been lost.

The popular and scientific value of the work will be very much enhanced by the numerous photographs obtained, as well as the accretion of natural specimens. Mr. McGrath's latest observations confirm his previous

determinations of the height of Mt. Logan (19,500 feet), so that this triple-headed giant mountain overlaps St. Elias by some 1,500 feet. But the great range has not yet been fully explored.

With the data now at hand the Commissioners, in case of agreement, can lay down the boundary line. The value of the region in dispute depends largely upon such mineral wealth as may be developed in the future.

ALASKA.—It is reported that a party of Lapland emigrants secured through the intervention of the U. S. Bureau of Education has arrived at Alaska. The object of this importation is to familiarize the natives with the use and care of reindeer, a few hundred of which, partly by means contributed by benevolent people and partly by Government aid, have been transported from Siberia in order to increase the diminishing food supply of the natives. It is expected that the introduction of this colony will attract other Lapps to the region.

Mr. Miner W. Bruce, in a report made recently by Dr. Sheldon Jackson, general agent of education in Alaska, has a most interesting and original chapter on some of the habits and customs of the Eskimo.

A convention has been called to meet at Juneau, November 5th, for the purpose of considering the need of a code of laws for the government of the vast domain of Alaska, and the necessity for the establishment of a mail route into the Yukon country, by way of Chilcat pass; and other remedial legislation by Congress.

Congress at its last session made provision for col-

lecting and printing the decisions of the United States District Court of Alaska !

IMPORTANT PROJECTS.—Three highly important projects were perfected by Congress at the last session. First, the construction and equipment of a boat railway from the foot of the Dalles Rapids to the head of Celilo Falls on the Columbia River. This project contemplates an hydraulic lift to raise steamboats out of the water, placing them upon a large tramway car running upon eight or more tracks, transporting them thirteen miles and returning them to the water. It is expected that this gigantic railway and necessary machinery will be completed in four years, at a cost of about \$2,000,000. The work will be under the supervision of the Chief of Engineers, U. S. A. An elaborate report on the subject, accompanied with drawings, was made by this officer at the first session of the present Congress. The contemplated improvement will be of immense value to the great region in Oregon and Washington drained by the Columbia River.

Second, for enlarging the waterway which connects Puget Sound with Lakes Union and Washington, that is to say, to convert this passage into a ship canal with the necessary locks and appliances. The plan contemplates dredging Salmon Bay on Puget Sound, so as to give ships an opportunity to ascend by the canal and anchor in fresh water. Also to have a naval station in fresh water for vessels not in commission.

Third, for a dam and lock in the rapids of the Mississippi River, between Saint Paul and Minneapolis,

and so extend navigation from Saint Paul to the great flour mills at Minneapolis.

Compared with the schemes for "improving" creeks and small lakes—most of these too insignificant for mapping—with which Congressmen attempt (often with success) to burden River and Harbor Bills, these three projects are giants, and far-reaching in benefits.

Congress has also directed a survey for the location of a canal connecting Lake Superior and the Mississippi River, either by way of the Saint Croix, Rum or Upper Mississippi Rivers.

Also, a survey of the Miami and Erie Canal, the Ohio Canal and such branches and such river and stream channels as may form available portions of a continuous canal to connect Lake Erie with the Ohio River.

NEW NAVAL OBSERVATORY.—Prof. William Harkness, the eminent astronomer, has been placed in full charge of all the astronomical work of the Naval Observatory. His hands are not tied by detailed regulations, it being the intention of the authorities to give him power adequate to his responsibilities.

Heretofore the astronomical work of the Observatory has been conducted under the direction of naval officers, and among these have been Capt. Charles Wilkes, Lieut. J. M. Gilliss, Commander M. F. Maury, Admiral C. H. Davis, Rear Admiral B. F. Sands. But the scientists of the country have long contended that naval officers, by reason of their education principally in other directions, were not competent to direct astronomical work, and that therefore the astronomical researches

made at the Observatory have not conformed to any regular system; that observers were left to follow largely their own individual inclinations, and their own ideas of what the interest of science demanded without any proper correlation of the work.

Under the reorganization the Observatory proper continues in charge of a naval officer who is charged with the general superintendence and government of the Observatory. All the astronomical work and instruments are under the absolute control and direction of the chief astronomer, who will report directly to the Navy Department instead of transmitting the work to the naval officer on duty as superintendent of the Observatory.

Although the contention for this change has been going on for many years, to Secretary Herbert belongs the distinguished merit of having made an unqualified and just decision.

The Naval Observatory was established in 1842, and prior to its recent removal to the most commodious and completely equipped buildings in the world, occupied a commanding site at the foot of 24th Street, originally known as Peters' Hill from its proprietor. A portion of Braddock's army camped on the spot in 1755, and on the bank of the Potomac is the rock known as Braddock's rock, where the troops landed. Later, it was proposed to erect a fort here. It was a plan of Washington to establish a national university on the spot, and the grounds came to be known as University Square. In 1813-14 a part of the American army encamped on the hill and advanced to Bladensburg.

SCULPTURE.—The plan of the reading room of the new Library of Congress contemplates the introduction of sixteen statues to illustrate the several forms of literary art. Statuary forms of the following named ancient and modern famous men have been selected to represent the subjects named :

Poetry—Homer and Shakespeare.

Art—Michael Angelo and Beethoven.

Science—Newton and Henry.

History—Herodotus and Gibbon.

Philosophy—Plato and Bacon.

Commerce—Columbus and Fulton.

Law—Solon and Blackstone.

Religion—Moses and St. Paul.

But certain other philosophers, poets and essayists are not “left in the cold,” even though the niches for their busts are outside the building. These subjects for continued fame are Franklin, Demosthenes, Dante, Irving, Macaulay, Sir Walter Scott, Emerson, Hawthorne and Goethe.

The names of the gentlemen in charge of the productions of these works of art are sufficient guarantee that none of the atrocities already perpetrated in the “Statuary Hall” of the Capítol will be repeated.

It is understood that a dozen or more statues which the late Mr. Corcoran caused to be manufactured, and placed in niches outside the “Corcoran Art Gallery,” will be sold to the best bidder or given away when the new Gallery now being erected is occupied.

The National Sculpture Society offers prizes of \$300 and \$200 for the best and second best designs for a

new dollar, the competition to be held in 1895. It may be asked, what authority the National Sculpture Society has in the matter. None whatever; but if a satisfactory design should be submitted, the Treasury Department might be very glad to adopt it. Before the unsatisfactory designs of the present subsidiary coins were adopted, there was an open-to-all-the-world competition; but it is said that artists held aloof. At all events, the designs which poured in were so unacceptable that the regular engraver of the mint was directed to, and did, make the designs for the 50-cent, 25-cent and 10-cent pieces.

FINANCIAL LEGISLATION OF THE 53D CONGRESS.— Besides the repeal of the purchasing-bullion clause of the Sherman Act, and the passing of the bill requiring the coinage of seigniorage, which received the presidential veto, the only other financial legislation accomplished is the act to subject to State taxation national bank notes and United States treasury notes. The bill was approved by the House Committee on Banking and Currency by a majority of one, Mr. Walker of Massachusetts voting with the democrats for it, and Mr. Springer and Mr. Johnson of Ohio with the republicans against it. There was not a full House when it passed, but the vote was 173 to 41. It passed the Senate without division. The act provides that the national bank bills and United States legal tender notes and other notes and certificates of the United States, payable on demand, and circulated as currency, shall not be exempt from taxation under the laws of any State or Territory, provided, that taxation is exer-

cised at the same rate and in the same manner as upon other property or money.

Prior to the passage of this act there were about \$500,000,000 of United States notes, including \$150,000,000 of the notes for the purchase of bullion issued under the Act of 1890, recently repealed, exempt from taxation. Some of the greenback issue (\$346,000,000) has been lost or destroyed, and a very large amount of the \$500,000,000 has been withdrawn from circulation and hoarded by banks and individuals on account of its non-taxable feature. Under the new act all forms of United States paper currency may be taxed the same as gold and silver.

PROMINENT CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.—In the Coast Survey, Professor Mendenhall resigned the position of Superintendent in July last, and went to Europe. The unfriendly attitude of the Treasury Department (of which the Coast Survey is an attachment) in impeding the work of the bureau for the purpose of forcing his retirement, and in removing experienced and valuable assistants in order to make room for political spoilsmen, and persistent malignment by a few men in Congress, rendered his position simply unbearable. He is now President of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the Government has lost the services of a gentleman of the highest scientific attainments and spotless character. His successor is William W. Duffield, a gentleman who has had successful experience in constructing railroads. For the three months following Prof. Mendenhall's resignation, Mr. W. A. Pugh, Commissioner

of Customs, an office abolished by the Dockery commission (so called), acted as superintendent, but it was gossiped around the city that the janitor of the building and Mr. Logan Carlisle (son of the secretary of the treasury) were "running" the office.

In the Geological Survey Major Powell, who organized, and for thirteen years carried on one of the best geological institutions in the world, has retired, and now devotes his entire time to the Bureau of Ethnology of which he is the Director. He has a vast amount of ethnographic material, the accumulations of more than a quarter of a century, which he will arrange for publication.

The successor of Major Powell in the Geological Survey is Professor Charles D. Walcott, a paleontologist and geologist and in every way qualified for such a prominent and responsible position. Professors S. F. Emmons and George F. Becker have also become reidentified with the Survey as geologists.

The office of editor-in-chief of the Survey has been abolished by order of the Secretary of the Interior, and so the Government loses the services of Dr. W. A. Croffut, an accomplished specialist and a gentleman of broad general information.

In the Treasury Department the offices of Commissioner of Customs, Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Deputy First Comptroller, Second Comptroller, and Deputy Second Comptroller have been abolished. The First Comptroller will hereafter be known as Comptroller of the Treasury, and there will be an Assistant Comptroller. The duties of the office of

Commissioner of Customs are transferred to the Comptroller's office.

The titles of First Auditor, Second Auditor, Third Auditor, etc., are abolished and in lieu thereof the First Auditor will be known as Auditor for the Treasury Department; the Second Auditor as Auditor for the War Department; the Third Auditor as Auditor for the Interior Department; The Fourth Auditor as Auditor for the Navy Department; the Fifth Auditor as Auditor for the State and all other departments or bureaus not specifically provided for; the Sixth Auditor as Auditor for the Post-Office Department. The Division of Warrants, Estimates and Appropriations will hereafter be known as the Division of Bookkeeping and Warrants.

LAKE NAVIGATORS SHOULD HEED THE STORM SIGNALS OF THE WEATHER BUREAU.—Prof. Harrington gives in detail the number of wrecks occurring on the Great Lakes* from December 17, 1885, to November 15, 1893, involving a loss of \$4,951,099 and 420 lives. It is but fair to assume that a large proportion of both lives and property might have been saved had the weather conditions been known and studied in advance of the storms. In a number of cases the vessels had been away from shelter but a short time. A chart which accompanies Prof. Harrington's report gives the location of 227 wrecks. In 1892 and 1893, when weather signals were available, there were but ten wrecks, and seven of these occurred during stormy conditions of which timely warning had been given by the Weather

* Report of wrecks which occurred on the great lakes from 1885 to 1893.

Bureau. The time is not distant when it will be made a criminal offence for the master or owner of a vessel to put to sea despite the official warnings as to dangerous weather conditions.

NECROLOGY.—The late Dr. James C. Welling was probably the best known and most valued citizen of Washington. He gave vigor to the life of the federal city during the period of its greatest growth, and impressed his personality strongly upon this community. He was one of the best of historical scholars, an excellent classical scholar, and a notable legal scholar; while few could surpass him in brilliant and forcible use of the English language. Witness the editorial columns of the great *National Intelligencer* from 1850 to 1865.

The points of his greatest activity in Washington were the Columbian University, of which he was President, and whose scholarship attendance he raised from 500 to 960; the Smithsonian Institution, of which he had been a Regent and member of the executive committee for many years; the Corcoran Art Gallery, of which he was President of the Board of Trustees, and a highly valued friend of the founder; and St. Elizabeth's Asylum for the Insane. At the same time he participated actively in the discussions of the National Geographic Society, the Anthropological Society and the Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the Washington Monument Society, and President of the Copyright League of the District. He was honored by many institutions of learning with degrees, and had membership in many literary, scientific and historical societies outside this city.

He was a close friend of Lincoln, Seward and Grant ; and his collection of papers bearing upon the war period is probably unsurpassed. At the time of his death he was making preparations to enter upon the work of writing a history of the war in its civil, political and judicial aspects.

The passing of this accomplished scholar is a calamity to this community.

Major Thomas Turtle, recently deceased, was one of the most efficient members of the Engineer Corps of the Army. He was a gentleman of high attainments, and was greatly valued for his ability and wide experience. During his connection with the service he has been stationed in nearly every section of the country, and his genial disposition and modesty made for him friends almost innumerable. Since 1887 he has been stationed here, in charge of one of the divisions of the Office of Chief of Engineers, and it is not risking anything to say that he was the most affable officer among General Casey's assistants.

Major Turtle was a member of the National Geographic Society, and represented the War Department on the U. S. Board on Geographic Names.

Robert Stanton Avery, who died recently in this city, left a portion of his large estate to the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Avery died at the age of 86. He was a graduate of Harvard College, and prepared for the ministry. He taught school for a while. In 1853 he was appointed by Prof. Bache to a position in the Coast Survey Office, and in 1866 was made chief of the Tidal Division. He resigned in 1887, since which

time he has led somewhat of a secluded life ; but he was a student to the very last.

His published works are :

Mode of forming a brief Tide Table for a chart, 1868.

Tabular statement of results of computed Tide Tables for charts of the Western Coast of the United States, 1870.

Mode of forming brief prediction Tide Tables, 1870.

Field and office work relating to Tides, 1872.

Tables of 8 place logarithms.

Fonetik Alphabet, 1893.

Fonetik First-book, 1893.

Economic Phonetic Alphabet, 1894.

Phonetic Primer, 1894.

Anti-Fonetik First Book, 1894.

He cut and cast the type, and printed the last six works on his premises. His fonetik system is said to be largely original and of great value.

Stimulated probably by the celebrated bequest of Thomas George Hodgkins to the Smithsonian Institution in 1892, Mr. Avery soon after that event made his will and placed it in the hands of Secretary Langley. He was a member of the National Geographic Society, and of the Philosophical Society of Washington. He died at the age of 86, and was buried in the family burying ground near Norwich, Conn.

NOTES.—Mr. Jacob Tome has established at Port Deposit, Md., an institution similar in most respects to the Pratt Institute of Brooklyn, the Drexel Institute of Philadelphia and the Armour Institute of Chicago. Ac-

According to the Baltimore *Sun* there will be a miniature public school system on improved lines and modern methods. Every privilege is absolutely free; but the children of Port Deposit are to be first accommodated, then the children of the County, then the State, and finally the country at large. Like the Pratt, Drexel, Wagner and Armour, the Jacob Tome Institute takes the name of its founder. Building No. 1 is now erected, and has an endowment of one million dollars.

Institutions for the public good, with such massive endowments as the Johns Hopkins University, the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Jacob Tome Institute give the State of Maryland very high rank for liberal and intelligent dedication of wealth.

The United States Minister at Constantinople makes a report on the vigorous explorations of the ruins of Niffer, near ancient Babylon, under the direction of American scientists, and provided for by the "Babylonian Exploration Fund." He says that 150, and at times as many as 250 Arabs are employed in the work of excavating. Tons of tablets, vases, inscribed brick, sarcophagi, etc., have arrived at the museum at Constantinople, which is in charge of Dr. Hilprieht, of the University of Pennsylvania, which institution is to be enriched by one of all duplicate antiques.

Mr. W. J. McGee and William Dinwiddie, of the Bureau of Ethnology, are exploring the desert country of the southwestern portion of Arizona known as Papagoria, said to be one of the most desolate and least known portions of the United States. The Papagos are said to be the most primitive people on the Western Continent.

H.

MAP
OF THE
RUSSIAN EMPIRE

SHOWING
THE GREAT SIBERIAN
RAILWAY

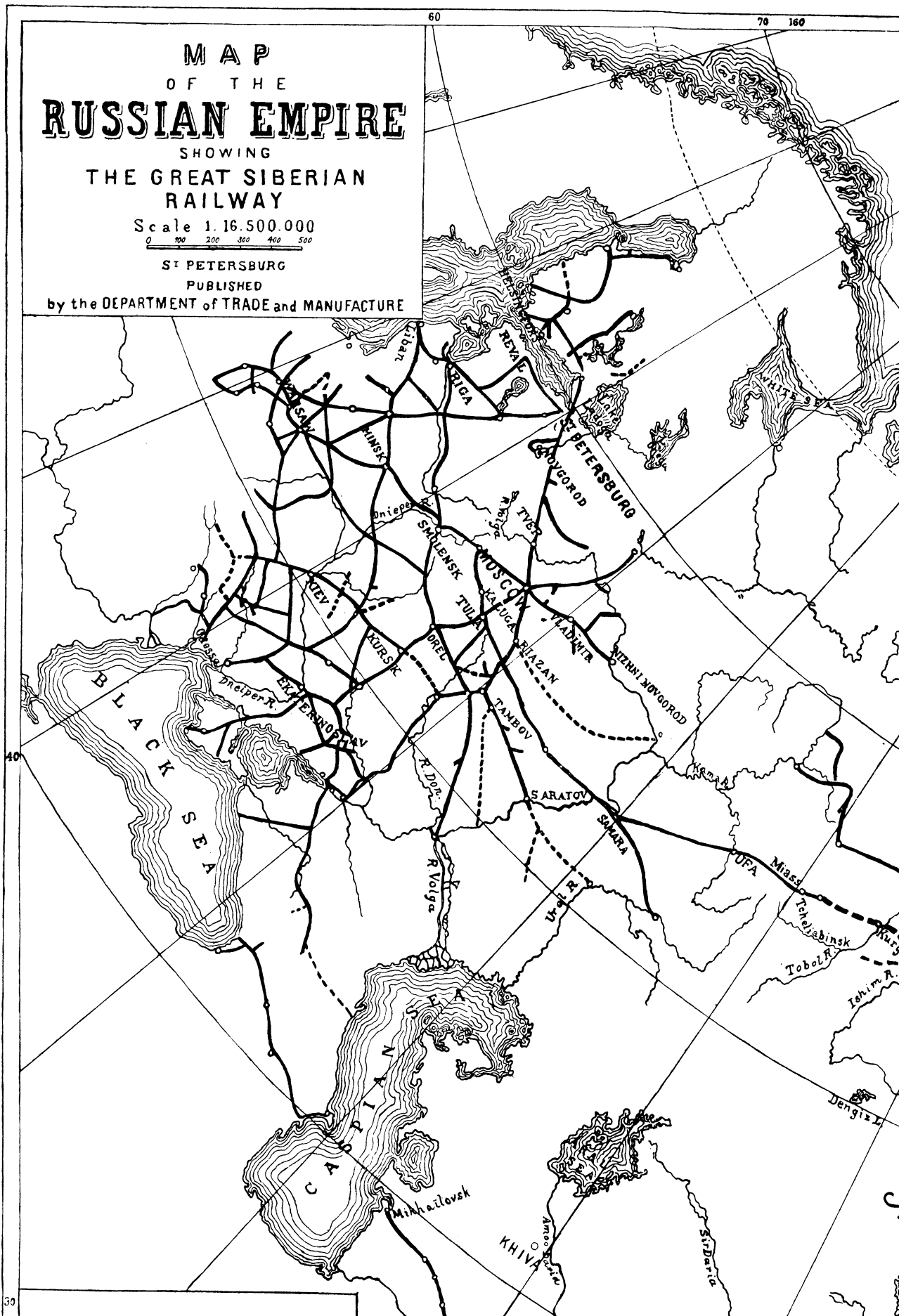
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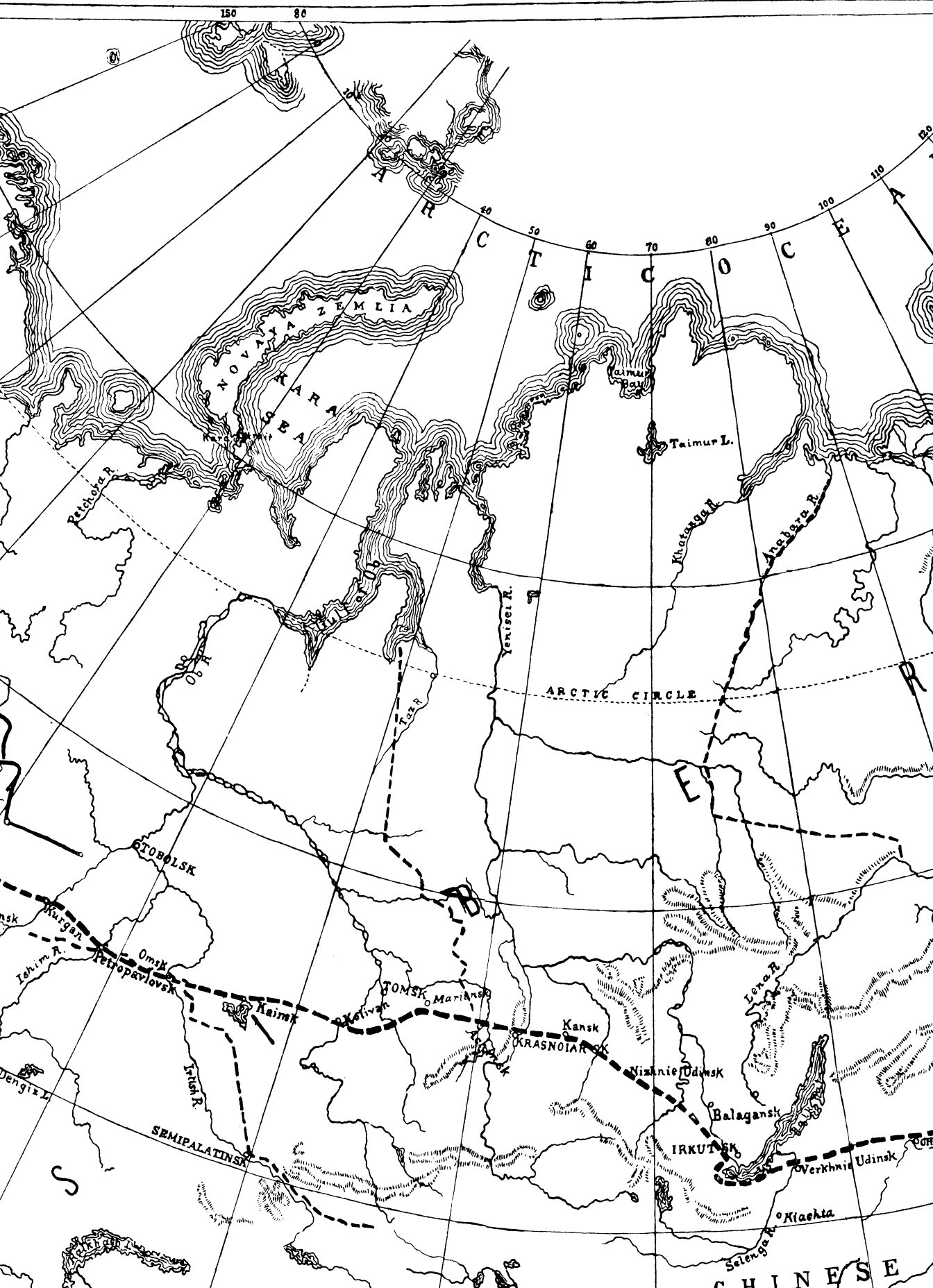
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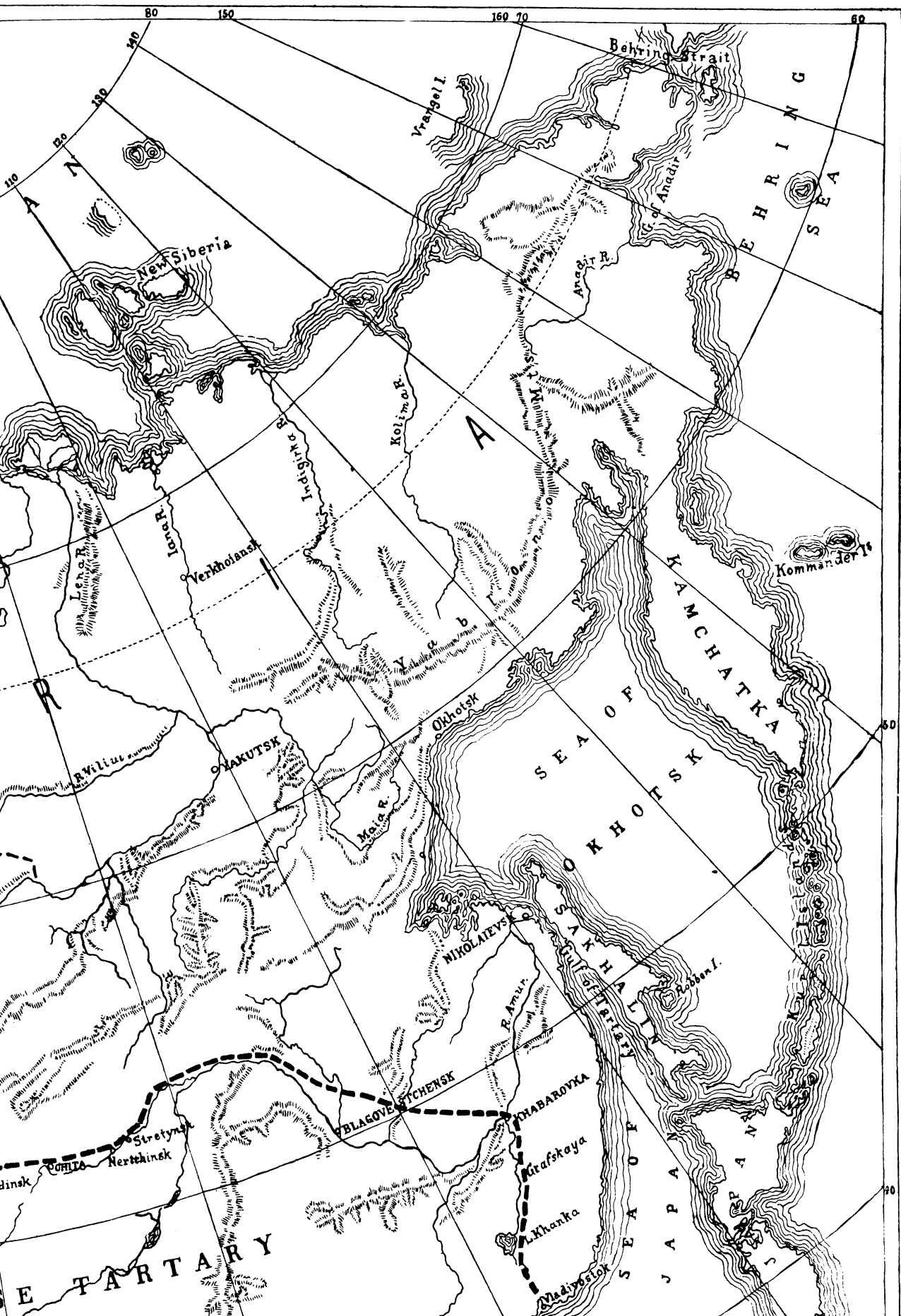
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110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180

60 50 40 30 20 10

New Siberia

Verkhoyansk

Yakutsk

Oymyakon

Okhotsk

Nikolaiysk

Blagoveshchensk

Chabarovka

Karafskaya

Khanka

Medvedevsk

Kamchatka

Kommander's

Behring Strait

Behring Sea

Sea of Okhotsk

Sea of Japan

Kuril Islands

Amur R.

Yenisey R.

Kolyma R.

Lena R.

Indigirka R.

Arctic Ocean

Arctic Circle

Equator

10° N

20° N

30° N

40° N

50° N

60° N

70° N

80° N

90° N

10° E

20° E

30° E

40° E

50° E

60° E

70° E

80° E

90° E

100° E

110° E

120° E

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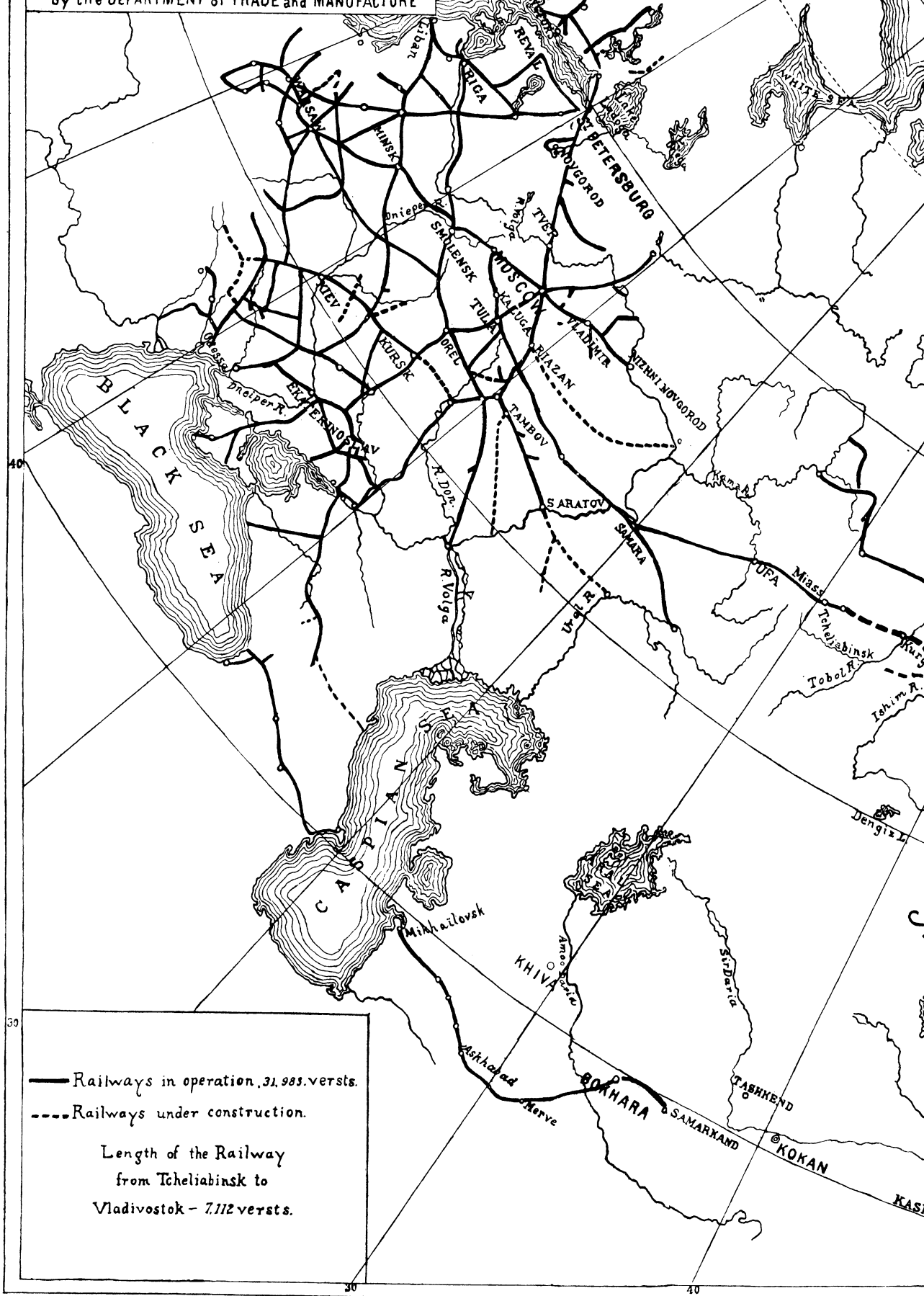
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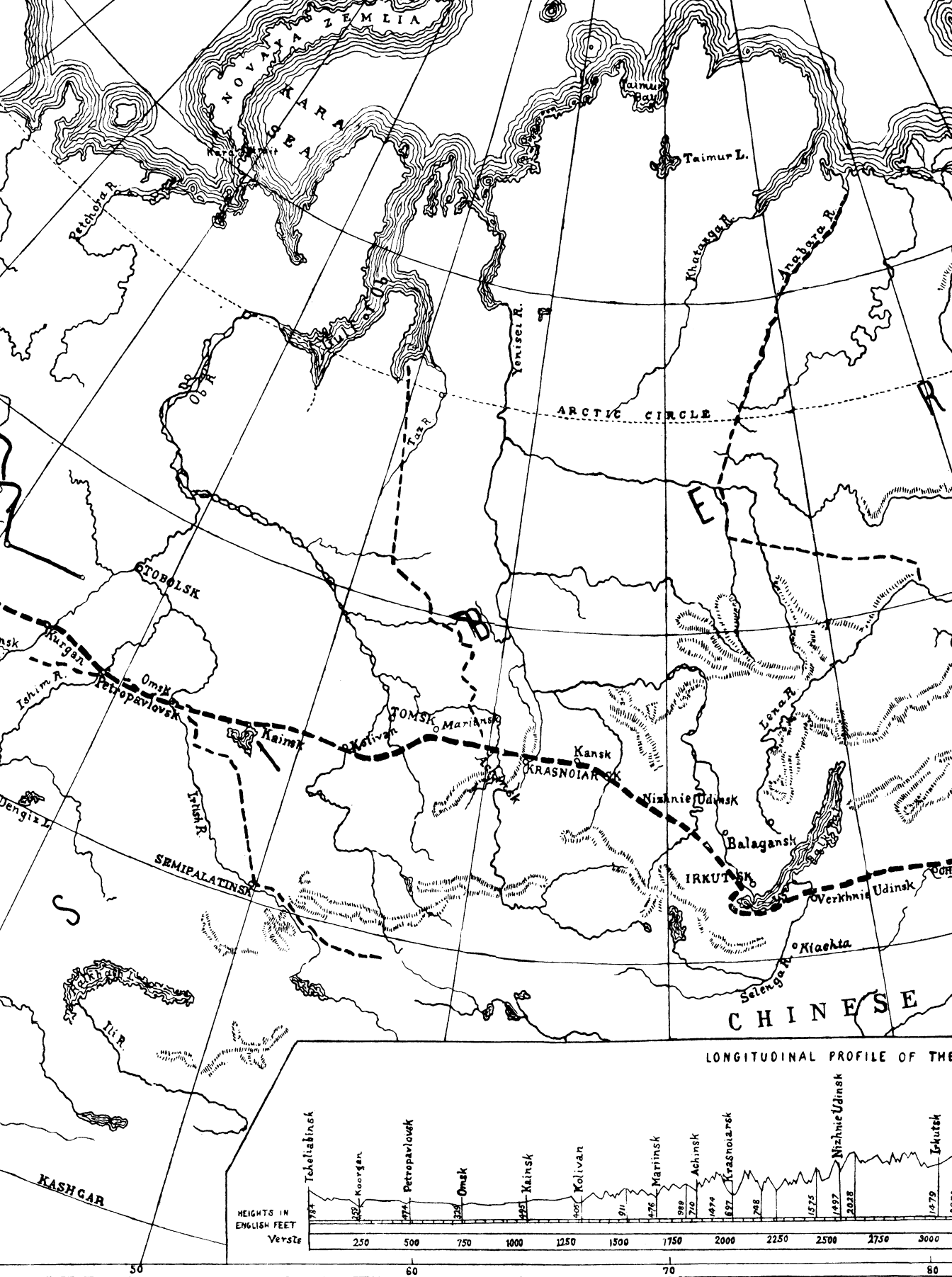
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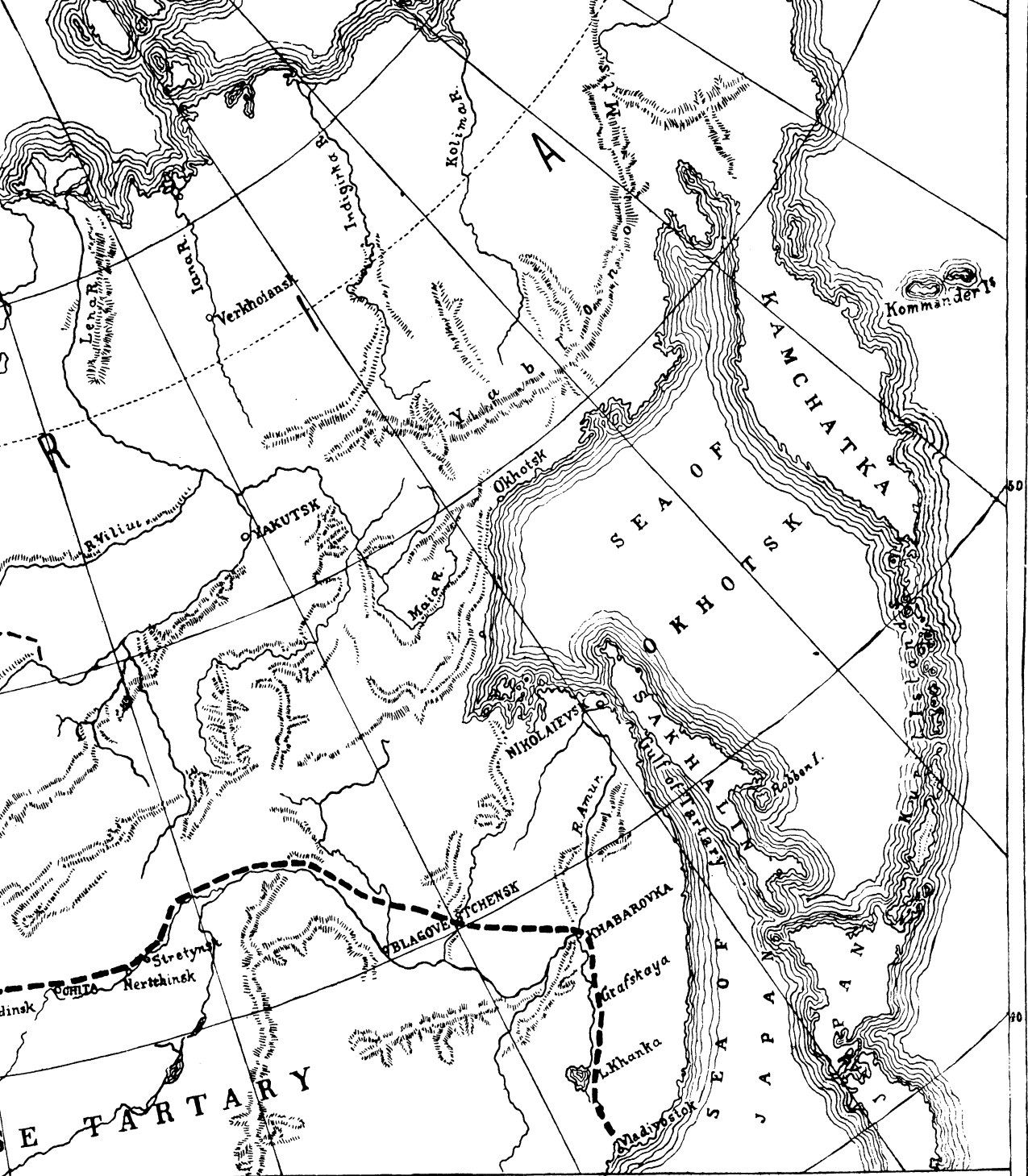
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350° E

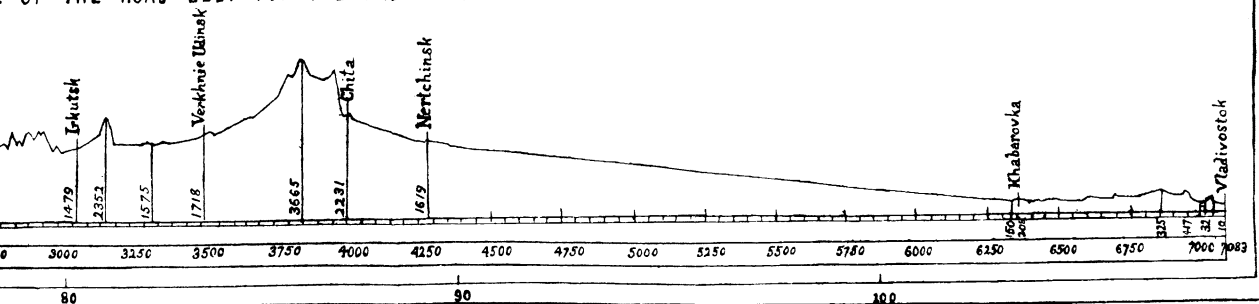
360° E







THE ROAD-BELT FOR THE GREAT SIBERIAN RAILWAY



THE LONGITUDE IS TAKEN FROM ST. PETERSBURG, $30^{\circ} 18' 22.5''$ E. OF GREENWICH.